Another road urgently required was the one starting from Arakulam and connecting the Peermade road, and passing through Mayyelam saddle. The alignment should be so fixed as to afford easy access to the adjoining British parts. The amounts provided in the annual budgets for the road usually lapsed without being spent. Arrangements should be made to avoid such lapses in future and to open the road at least as far as Mayyelam saddle.

Budget provision had been made in the years 1101 and 1102 for the opening of roads from Vazhakulam to Vazhittala, from Muttam to Antinad-Melukavu road and from Kotamangalam to Vazhakulam. But the first-mentioned road had not been begun at all, while only 1½ miles of the second and half the length of the third road had been finished. It was deplorable that the budget allotments made in respect of such very useful roads were allowed to lapse. The incomplete roads should be finished without further delay and work on the other road should also be begun early.

In conclusion, the member prayed for the provision of allotments for converting the following pathways into cart roads :—

(*a*) The village road connecting the Muvattupuzha-Neduvakad road with the Kaliar road.

(*b*) The village road from Karinkunnam to Vazhittala *via* Purapuzha.

(*c*) The road joining the Arakulam road, 9th mile, and the Vellimattam road, 5th mile, and extension of the same to join the Todupuzha-Kaliar road.

The member claimed that the roads specified by him would in a great way help the opening up of the interior of the taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Tomman Joseph, an estimate has been sanctioned and contract settled in regard to the road that runs from Muvattupuzha to Todupuzha and Kalavur *via* Kumaramangalam. The only difficulty is that the lands have not been formally acquired and handed over yet by the Revenue Department to the Public Works Department. That is now being expedited. The other road you refer to is the road from Vazhakulam to Vazhittala. For this an estimate has been sanctioned. The work is about to be begun. The next road you speak of is the road from Todupuzha to the British parts. The road has been aligned already and parts are under construction.

Then you speak of three new roads included in the concluding part of your representation. All these have to be investigated as to their necessity, before they can be taken up for construction.

65. Communications in the Muvattupuzha taluk.

MR. VARKI ABRAHAM (*Member, Muvattupuzha taluk*) said that what the people of North Travancore needed most was the improvement of means of communication. Most of the waste lands in the Muvattupuzha taluk had been granted on registry during recent years and consequently many parts of the taluk had become crowded with habitations. But for want of proper means of communication, people were put to much hardship and inconvenience. As a result of several representations made through the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council for the construction of certain absolutely necessary roads, the Government were pleased to sanction small amounts for works in connection with some of them. But whether due to the indifference of the Public Works Department or for other reasons, many of those allotments lapsed to the Government without being spent. As instances, the member said that an allotment of Rs. 1,500 each was provided in the budget for 1101 for the Karakunnam-Mulavur and the Anchalpetti-Ramangalam roads. The amounts, however, lapsed at the end of that year, and in 1102 only a sum of Rs. 1,000 was provided for one of the two roads. Similarly, the Varapatti-Neduvakad and the Trikkariyur-Vettilapara roads provided for in the budget for 1102 had not yet been begun. Again, although a sum of Rs. 3,000 was provided in the budget for 1102 for the improvement of the Muvattupuzha-Arakuzha-Palakuzha road, no improvement worth the name was made. The work on the road had been stopped as a result of certain irregularities on the part of the local P. W. D. subordinates and consequently the people were made to suffer. In the same way, the bridge at Elanji had not been completed, although the work had been begun four

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years ago. The agriculturists were, therefore, not able to cultivate their lands in the locality. Judged from the point of view of population, area and revenue, Muvattupuzha taluk deserved a prominent place among other taluks and could legitimately claim the expenditure of an adequate amount on public works. Not only was no adequate provision made, but even the sanctioned allotments were allowed to lapse. That was most unsatisfactory. If it was found that any work for which budget provision was made was not duly carried out during the year in which such provision was made, exemplary punishment should be meted out to the officers at fault. The member prayed that, at least in 1102, the sanctioned amounts should be spent for the works concerned without fail.

In conclusion, the member requested that the following works be attended to early :—

(1) Completion of—
- (*a*) the Muvattupuzha-Arakuzha road ;
- (*b*) the Maradi-Mannattur road ; and
- (*c*) the Anchalpatti-Ramangalam road.

(2) Opening of—
- (*a*) a road from Varapatti to Neduvakad *via* Pottanikad ;
- (*b*) the Trikkariyur-Vettilapara road ;
- (*c*) a road from Karakunnam to join the Kotamangalam-Perumbavur road *via* Mulavur ;
- (*d*) a village road from Kotamangalam passing through Nadukani, Peruvinnur, and other places ;
- (*e*) a village road from Pezhakkapalli to Mulavur ;
- (*f*) a village road from Piravam to Elanji ; and
- (*g*) a trace from the Neriamangalam road, 4th mile, to the banks of the Periyar *via* Peruvinnur.

(3) Construction of a bridge across the Kotamangalam river on the Kotamangalam-Vazhakulam road.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Varki Abraham, as regards new roads which you want, the Chief Engineer will have them investigated and if found necessary, he will call for estimates and try to have them taken up as early as possible.

As regards your remarks re money allotted for public works lapsing, that is something due to overzeal in making sure of the money before starting the work. It is an error on the right side because it indicates that there is a very real desire to get on with the work or to get the money a little early. So, sometimes the money lapses. You refer to a bridge left unfinished at the 10th mile of the Talayola-parambu-Kuttattukulam road; the reason why it has not been completed is that some girders are not yet ready and they are expected shortly.

MEMBER : It is four years since it was started.

DEWAN : The matter is being expedited. It is not a small item. The estimated cost of the road is about a lakh of rupees and the work will naturally spread over a certain number of years.

All the other matters will be noted and action taken.

66. Communications in the Parur taluk.

MR. LONA OUSEPH (*Member, Parur taluk*) said that representations for the improvement of the means of communication in the Parur taluk were as old as the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly itself but that no substantial improvements had been made. Parur was not backward in point of population or revenue, but it was rarely visited by the higher officers to ascertain the local needs of the people. The Government should therefore take up the question of communications in the Parur taluk and redress the long-standing grievances of the people. The following works were absolutely necessary for the convenience of the inhabitants of the Parur taluk : —

(1) Metalling the Chattanad-Munambam road.

(2) Construction of a bridge across the Palattunkalpuzha near the Kottakali church.

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